

Action-Based Learning: Exploring the Campus as a Laboratory for Learning About Sustainability

Mike Shriberg, Ph.D.

(Currently) Policy Director, Ecology Center

(After July 19) Education Director, Graham
Environmental Sustainability Institute

ENV/RC 391:

Sustainability & the Campus

Goals

- “Hands-On Learning”
- ↑ Campus & Global Ecological Literacy
- Applications/Theories of Sustainability
- Role of U in Social Change; Build Skills
- Group Learning/Project Management

Class Sessions

- 1/3 Guests
- 1/3 Lecture/Discussion
- Skill Building/Group Project Sessions
- Site Visits



Project Setup

- Project Solicitation & Selection
- Student Matching
- Group Process Intervention
- 4 Goalposts
- Individual Research Paper
- Presentations
- Reports
- Peer Evaluation (graded)



Sample Successes/Failures



5/11/2010



Action-Based Learning on Cam

Keys to Success

- Appropriate Level of Contact with Sponsors
- Faculty/GSI/Consultant

Engagement

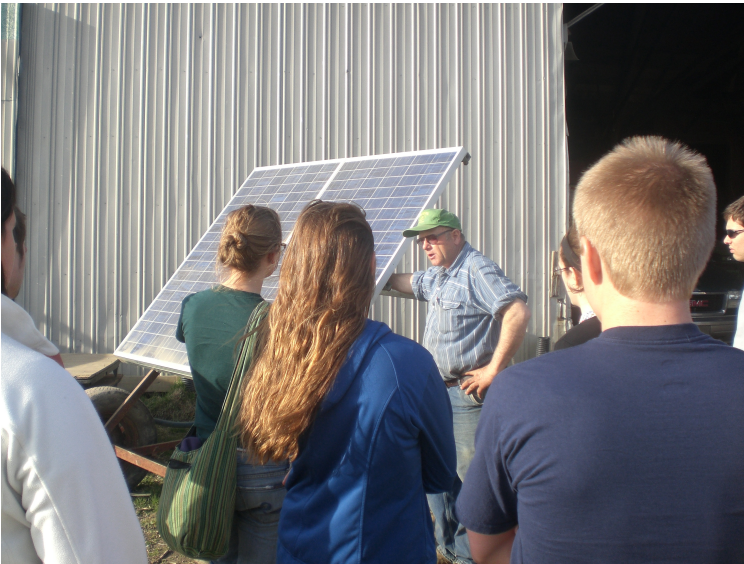
- Actual Intervention
- Clear Guidelines/Mileposts/
Feedback
- Balanced Teams
- Well Designed Projects
- Clear expectations for

sponsors



Key Challenges

- Project Management
- Connecting Project with Class Sessions
- Varying Project Quality/Results
- Varying Student Backgrounds & Commitment



Action-Based Learning: Exploring the Campus as a Laboratory for Learning About Sustainability

Mike Shriberg, Ph.D.

(Currently) Policy Director, Ecology Center

(After July 17) Education Director, Graham
Environmental Sustainability Institute

mshriber@umich.edu